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TELEGRAM

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ACTION MEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ACDA-12 OMB-01 IO-13 /074 W  
-----114257 291506Z /65

O 291410Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC INIACT IMMEDIATE 7649  
SECDEF  
DIRNSA, P.T. MEADE, MO.  
CINCPAC  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3311

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN ALSO FOR USDAOs

SITREP 18

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF  
SUBJECT: MILITARY CONFLICT IN KABUL

1. AT TWO LOCATIONS AROUND DAUD'S RESIDENCE AND THE MINISTRY  
OF INTERIOR EMBASSY OFFICER OBSERVED YOUTHFUL, CIVILIAN-DRESSED  
ORATORS WHO WERE PRESENTING THE NEW REGIME'S STANDARD LINE TO  
RAPT AND REASONABLY LARGE CROWDS OF PEDESTRIANS. THE REACTION  
OF THE LISTENERS WAS GENERALLY GUARDED, BUT THIS MAY HAVE STEMMED  
FROM BEWILDERMENT AS MUCH AS ANYTHING ELSE. AT ANY RATE, THE  
SPEAKERS, ON THE SURFACE AT LEAST, APPEARED TO BE EDUCATED UNIVER-  
SITY TYPES, WHO WERE FAIRLY PROFESSIONAL AND WHO HAD THE "PARTY  
LINE" OF THE NATIONAL MILITARY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (NMRC) DOWN  
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PAT. THEY ARE STILL AVOIDING THE USE OF OBVIOUS COMMUNIST CLAPTRAP.

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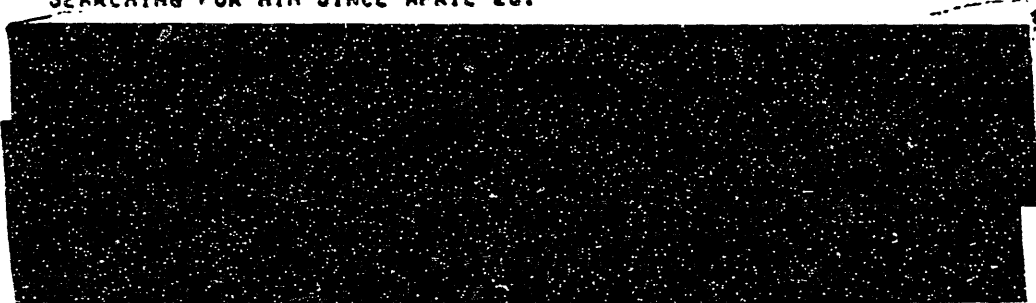
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2. BETWEEN PUSHTUNISTAN SQUARE AND THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE FORMER PALACE, A MOTION PICTURE FILM CREW WAS OBSERVED SHOOTING, BATTLE SITES AND CROWD SCENES FROM AN ARMORED CAR. THE OBSERVERS WERE EXHORTED TO DEMONSTRATE IN SUPPORT OF THE HEROISM OF THE COUP FORCES, AND, WHEN BATTLE SCARS WERE ENCOUNTERED ON WALLS OF THE PALACE BUILDINGS, THE "DIRECTOR" SHOUTED, INTER ALIA, THAT THIS SHOWED WHAT HAPPENS TO CORRUPT REGIMES SUCH AS DAQUD'S. SOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE OBSERVED DONATING BOUQUETS OF FLOWERS TO TANK CREWS; THE LATTER, WHO SEEMED TIRED, BUT RELAXED, ACCEPTED THE TOKENS WITH SOME GRACIOUSNESS.

3. ABOUT NOON ON APRIL 29, THE AUTHORITIES BEGAN TO ALLOW THE AFGHAN PUBLIC TO ENTER THE PALACE GROUNDS AND INSPECT DAQUD'S FORMER RESIDENCE. ONE AFGHAN WHO TOOK THE TOUR REPORTED THAT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF VIOLENCE INSIDE DAQUD'S HOUSE, BUT THAT THERE WERE POCK MARKS AND BLOODSTAINS ON EXTERIOR WALLS. FOR SOME REASON THESE "TOURS" WERE STOPPED AROUND 1400. ABOUT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, SCORES OF ONLOOKERS WERE PERMITTED TO CLING ABOARD AND INSPECT A KNOCKED-OUT BTR-60 (ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER) WHICH WAS SITTING NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO DAQUD'S FORMER RESIDENCE.

4. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT NAJEEB AMANULLAH, PRESIDENT OF ARIANA AFGHAN AIRWAYS -- AND SON-IN-LAW OF GENERAL GHULAM HAIDER RASSULI, FORMER MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, WAS ARRESTED WHEN HE REPORTED TO HIS OFFICE ON APRIL 29. COUP FORCES HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM SINCE APRIL 28.



6. AT 1615 HOURS, APRIL 29, AN EMBASSY OFFICER SAW COUP TROOPS LOADING HIGH-RANKING DAQUDIST MILITARY AND AIR FORCE OFFICERS ABOARD TRUCKS AT GUN POINT OUTSIDE RADIO AFGHANISTAN, WHICH IS NEAR OUR EMBASSY.

7. AT 0845, APRIL 29, AN AIR FORCE OFFICER WAS SEEN EXPLAINING THE NEW REVOLUTION TO A LARGE CROWD IN FRONT OF THE MINISTRY OF

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